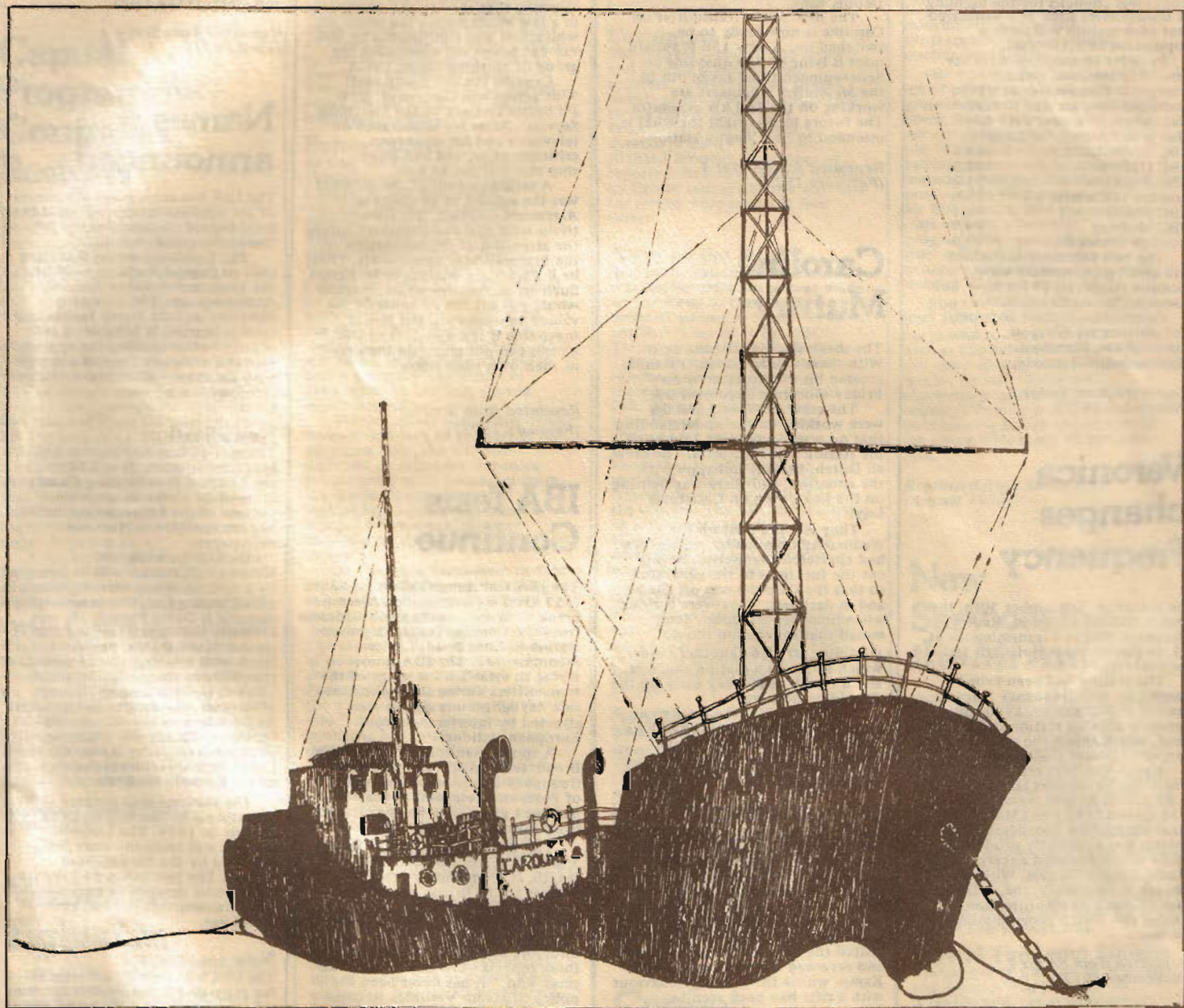


# NEWS



## MW for BBC Local Radio

From September 2nd, BBC Local Radio Stations are to broadcast on medium wave as well as VHF. This announcement was made by Sir John Eden, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

To provide these frequencies BBC Radio Four's regional programming will be stopped. Only the London, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland regions will serve the country, leaving five other frequencies clear.

Radios London and Birmingham will broadcast on 206 metres medium wave.

Reprinted from Script 1 (August 1972)

## Mi Amigo Returns

On September 3rd, the *Mi Amigo* dropped anchor off the coast of Holland, alongside RNI. The *Mi Amigo* — the home of Radio Caroline from 1964 to 1968, — has been test transmitting intermittently since then. Full broadcasts are due to start mid-November, under the name Radio Caroline 73 International.

### Pirate museum!

In May of this year the *Mi Amigo* was auctioned for 20,000 guilders, (£2400) and sold to 25-year old Mr Gerard van Dam. He claimed that it was to be converted into a "floating hotel and museum to pirate radio." The ship was towed to the small harbour of Zaanadam to

be renovated and then to its present position, at the beginning of September, for final preparations before beginning broadcasts. On board the ship are two 10 kw and one 50 kw Continental Electronics transmitters. Initially the new station will operate on only ten kWatts, until the larger transmitter has been refurbished. Test transmissions are at present continuing on low power of 4,000 watts. Full programmes will begin as soon as possible. Generator problems have been delaying the station recently.

Former Caroline DeeJay Spangles Muldoon has been supervising conversion of the old studios located on the top deck — unlike those on RNI which are two floors below the top deck. The ship, recently painted yellow, also has a newly-built TV lounge and Bar. Behind the new Radio Caroline

is a company called 'Bein Commercial Broadcasting of Amsterdam.' Roxan O'Rahilly has been in regular contact with them since September.

Radio Caroline will be broadcasting on a frequency of 1187 kHz (252.7m).

Reprinted from Script 2 (November 1972)

## IBA technical details

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has announced the technical details for the first five commercial radio stations. London is to have two stations — one specialising in news.

The VHF transmitters are to be located at the existing IBA Croydon transmitting station, near



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Crystal Palace. Circular polarisation is to be used by two 2kWatt FM transmitters. The commercial stations will be given an advantage over the BBC, in that from the outset they will be able to broadcast in Stereo. No details have been announced concerning the medium wave back-up transmitters. This is mainly because the IBA has had difficulty in obtaining planning permission from local councils for the building of transmitters sites. It is estimated that each station will serve a population of 9,160,000.

In order to accommodate the new VHF stations, various changes in frequencies of BBC Local Stations are due to take place soon. The new VHF band-plan is as follows, for London, BBC Radio London 94.9, BBC Oxford 95.2, BBC Brighton 95.3, London (Commercial) 95.8, BBC Solent 96.1, BBC Medway 96.7, London (News station) 97.3.

The two commercial stations will also be on medium wave, London (General) 194m M.W. and London (News) 261m M.W.

Other areas to have commercial stations are Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Plymouth and Teesside.

Reprinted from Script 2 (November 1972)

## Veronica changes Frequency

On Saturday, September 30th, the Dutch Offshore Station, Radio Veronica, stopped transmissions at 12.30 pm on the wavelength 192 metres.

The station had been broadcasting on that frequency since it started in September, 1960. But recently another station in Switzerland, which shares the same channel, increased power drastically.

Radio Veronica resumed transmissions, 30 minutes later at 1.00 pm on its new wavelength - 538 metres (557 kHz) MW. The final programme broadcast on 192 metres was a specially produced show which featured excerpts from Radio Veronica's past. With the change in frequency, the station also changed its identification jingles and Dutch programming format.

Reprinted from Script 2 (November 1972)

## Caroline On-Air

After nearly three months of test transmissions, Radio Caroline is on the air. But not without a number of problems. Tests started from the MV *Mi Amigo* early in October, a month after the boat dropped anchor alongside pirate ships Radio Northsea and Radio Veronica. These were heard over a wide area, but full transmissions were delayed until power could be increased.

A series of disasters followed with generators breaking down, the loss of an anchor, and the aerial mast - the tallest of any pirate ship - collapsing in mid-November during a storm. The most publicised event was a mutiny aboard the ship. *Script's* reporter on the *Mi Amigo* writes an exclusive eyewitness account of the mutiny and the events leading up to it.

Radio Caroline is at present

broadcasting on 252.7 metres (1.187 Mhz). From 5 am to 5 pm programmes are in Dutch, and from 5 pm to 5 am in English. The deejay line-up is as follows: Andy Archer, Crispain St. John, Tony Allan (temporary), Steve England, Graham Gill, Norman Barrington-Smythe, and Spangles Muldoon (Administration). The Dutch deejays are Ron Dolman, Marh Storm, Gerrard van de Zee, and Dennis King.

The new 50kW transmitter on Caroline is now ready to be switched on. A new 150 ft aerial mast is lying on the quayside at Scheveningen to be taken out to the *Mi Amigo*. Engineers are working on the 160 kW generator. The future looks bright for what is intended to be a 'happy station'.

Reprinted from Script 3 (February 1973)

## Caroline Mutiny

The meek shall inherit the earth. With these words Ronan O'Rahilly greeted his mutinous crew on Friday morning, December 29.

The crew, engineers and djs were working on the understanding that no wages would be paid until the station was successful. The crew, all Dutch, became unhappy with the situation, and there was fighting on the boat, even on Christmas Day.

They left the boat on the Wednesday on a tender which they had chartered themselves, having cut the fuel lines to the generator so that the Caroline was off the air and in darkness. They were furious when Spangles Muldoon, determined that the station should continue, arranged another tender which took out a marine engineer and a Dutch discjockey early on the Thursday morning.

Later that day, the crew went out again on a boat organised by a Netherlands News Agency and there was more fighting aboard, during which the station closed down again.

### O'Rahilly arrived

Ronan arrived from London to apply his principle of Peace and Love to the situation. Heated arguments developed with the djs refusing to work with the crew, and the crew demanding that the boat be brought inshore and sold to make good their wages. Ronan visited the boat on Friday evening and returned with Captain van der Kamp, whose threatening behaviour with a rifle had been seen by millions on European Television. It was agreed that there be no more crews. All necessary work being done by the disc jockeys in order to save money.

This did not satisfy the militant crew members, who arranged with Dick Rose, of the Radio North Sea tender, to tow the *Mi Amigo* into harbour on the Friday night. She arrived in the middle of Amsterdam only a few hundred yards from the Central Station, where her presence was a source of great embarrassment to the authorities for two days. In spite of the difficulties, the atmosphere of a 'happy station' remained. Even the Customs and Immigration officers joined in the laughter after they had asked for a clearance certificate that there were no rats on board. Luckily it was a long weekend holiday for the New Year, and the boat was quietly rowed back up the Nordzee canal to the coast.

## Injunction

Meanwhile, the crew had got the President of the Haarlem Law Courts out of his bed and obtained an injunction preventing the ship from leaving, and she was stopped at the canal locks at Ijmuiden late on Monday night. The Caroline organisers replied by going around prominent trades people in Den Haag to raise the money necessary to free the ship. So popular is Caroline that they found £8000 in a few hours during the night, of which half was contributed by Mrs. van der Boom for advertising her group of clothing shops, INCA.

Captain van der Kamp said: 'Our action was successful. Now I'd better go back to the Merchant Service'. After his appearance on television and his erroneous criticism of an 'old and leaky' ship this will not be easy.

A serious aspect of the incident was the subject of an editorial in *Algemeen Dagblad*: 'He who plays tricks with odd radio stations forces the attention of the authorities to the International Agreements. These lie in Den Haag waiting to be signed. Such an encroachment on liberties would put off the air some of the valued amusements, but this is inevitable if the directors of the pirates can not maintain the order of their own enterprises'.

Reprinted from Script 3 (February 1973)

## IBA Tests Continue

The IBA test transmissions on 539m (557 kHz) are continuing. After a break of several weeks the broadcasts from the London Transport power station in Lots Road, Chelsea, recommenced. The IBA is now trying to establish the range of the transmitters during the night. Outside daylight-hours signals are effected by interference from European stations.

A spokesman for the Independent Broadcasting Authority said the frequency allocated by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications had been given after having clearance from European broadcasters.

The Dutch pirate station Radio Veronica shares the same wavelength. It immediately made a protest to the British Government. It has denied reports in some British papers that it would 'Jam' the BBC's programmes. The directors of Radio Veronica said these reports were insane. A spokesman said, 'It has never been the policy of Radio Veronica to cause interference to any other broadcasting stations. The IBA tests can not be heard in the Netherlands anyway!'

At present the tests consist of a continuous tone interrupted by a short announcement every 15 minutes but will soon be continuous music as used for TV test card transmissions.

### New frequency

Further test transmissions on 417m (719 kHz) have been made from the same site. This frequency is shared by Radio Free Europe, which broadcasts with a 150 kW transmitter from Munich. Radio Free Europe is a station which beams programmes at Communist countries. Test broadcasts are expected soon using both 417m and 539m simultaneously.

No definite decision has been made over the frequencies to be used yet. A spokesman said that there were more frequencies that could be used, but to get satis-

factory coverage of the London area using the present site, a channel near that end of the medium wave band would have to be used. The site is a temporary one pending the Authority securing permission to develop a permanent transmitter site. For this reason the frequencies used when regular transmissions commence by about late 1973 may differ from those already announced - 261m (1151 kHz) and 194m (1546 kHz).

Reprinted from Script 4 (April 1973)

## Names announced

The IBA has announced the names of the applicants who will hold the local radio franchises for the first five commercial stations.

The London General franchise goes to Capital Radio headed by the actor and director Richard Attenborough. The Company's directors include David Jacobs and George Martin. It is believed that shortly before making the application the company formed a merger with another - Rediffusion Radio Holdings - who were also making a bid.

### News Station

The second London station will specialise in news. It will be run by the London Broadcasting Company. Most of its directors are from outside of the broadcasting media, but are involved in National newspapers.

Outside London, the Birmingham station will be operated by a new company Birmingham Broadcasting Ltd, whose managing director is David Pinnell. He was formerly the director of the IOM station Manx Radio. Philip Birch who established and managed the offshore station Radio London 1964-7, is the managing director of Greater Manchester Independent Radio who win the Manchester franchise. Finally the Glasgow contract is taken by Radio Clyde Ltd, whose directors include singer Kenneth McKellar.

The stations are expected to be operational by the end of 1973 or early in 1974. The London stations will probably start first, followed by the Birmingham station. The two other stations are likely to be delayed as no medium wave transmitting site has been found yet.

### New contracts

The IBA will soon be advertising for programme contractors for the next set of stations. These will be at Liverpool, Tyneside, Swansea, Sheffield, Plymouth, Edinburgh, Portsmouth, Bradford, Ipswich and Nottingham. Further stations will be opened at Belfast, Blackburn, Bournemouth, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Coventry, Huddersfield, Leeds, Teesside and Wolverhampton.

Reprinted from Script 4 (April 1973)

## Ship drifts

On February 23, Radio Caroline sent up distress flares as they thought they were adrift in the North Sea. In relation to the RNI ship *Mebo 2* the *Mi Amigo* appeared to have moved. But on looking at the Veronica ship it was discovered that they were in their usual position. Distress flares were



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continued on behalf of RNI. Bollier sent out a tug to assist the drifting *Mebo 2*. However the ship managed to start the engines and return to its original position. In fact the ship was only 600 yards off the Scheveningen beach, before the crew regained control of the ship.

Reprinted from Script 4  
(April 1973)

## Capital Programme Controller Resigns

Capital Radio, which will be London's first commercial radio station, announced during May that it had appointed a woman, Ruth Leon, as programme controller. However, two weeks later stated that Miss Leon had resigned from the post.

Miss Leon (28) is currently the deputy programme director of WETA, Washington's public service television station. She is British, and before going to the States worked for Granada TV. But she had resigned from the post because her husband is a CBC reporter assigned to the Watergate Affair.

Said Miss Leon, 'When I accepted the position, we did not realise that the Watergate would become anywhere as big as it has. As my husband can not leave now I must resign from the post.'

A spokesman for Capital Radio later said, 'We had over 200 applicants. Now we will have to take another look at our short list.'

**Other Capital appointments**  
Capital has also announced John Whitney (42) chairman of the Local Radio Association, as managing director; Tony Salisbury (45), a former assistant managing director of Southern Television, as general manager; Tony Vickers (29), a group sales manager at ATV as sales director and Gerald O'Reilly (32), as the Chief Engineer.

Reprinted from Script 5  
(June 1973)

## Veronica Fights On

April, 1973 proved to be a very important month in Radio Veronica's existence. It was 'for a start' swept from its anchors in a hurricane, landing on the beach at Scheveningen near The Hague. But more important to its long term future, the Dutch Parliament organised an official hearing to discuss Radio Veronica. When Radio Veronica ran aground on April 3rd, its programmes resumed a few days later from the Radio Caroline ship *Mi Amigo*.

On Monday, 2nd April a raging hurricane swept Holland killing one person and injuring many others. In the North Sea, the three offshore radio stations took a beating. Radio Caroline aboard the *Mi Amigo* was not on the air as it had been off the air all week due to generator trouble. But in spite of its small crew was able to outride the storm. Radio Northsea however was forced off the air early when the *Mebo II* started taking in waters. The generator was flooded causing an electrical failure. But it was the 475-ton ship *Nordeney* that was crippled by the storm.

## Anchor Chain breaks

When the storm was at its peak the anchor chain gave. The station's announcers interrupted programmes to broadcast Mayday messages. Lifeboats immediately went to the rescue of the crippled pop ship. By 10.45 pm the Captain and nine-man crew had been safely removed from the ship. The small boat which Radio Veronica had been using since 1966 was abandon abandoned and left to drift inshore while taking in water badly. After 11 hours it ended up being buffeted by breakers on the coast near The Hague. Thousands of Radio Veronica fans thronged to the site to see the battered boat, on the following morning.

## Future uncertain

At first the future of Radio Veronica was uncertain. The Captain of the ship, said it was very badly damaged and declared, 'This is the end of Veronica'. But Bull Verwey, managing director of Radio Veronica said that the ship was insured and that a new ship would be available if necessary. The services of a large tug firm Smit van de Tak from Scheveningen, were engaged to tow the boat off the beach. But initial attempts to pull it from the Zuiderpier of Scheveningen harbour, proved unsuccessful.

Worried about loss of advertising revenue and lack of support at the proposed rally, the Veronica directors arranged for Veronica programmes to be broadcast from the Radio Caroline ship. On Wednesday, April 11th, Radio Veronica broadcasts resumed from the *Mi Amigo* at 9 am on 259 metres.

On that date Parliament invited representatives from the station, the music industry, publishers, listeners and artists to air their views on the future of Veronica. The same day tens of thousands of people went to the Hague to protest against a Bill before Parliament which would ratify the Treaty of Strasbourg. In the mid-Sixties many European countries had ratified the Treaty outlawing pirate radio stations. In Holland however, ratification meant a change in the National Posts and Telegraph Law — and that needed a majority in Parliament.

The demonstrators from all over Holland carried transistor radios tuned to the popular station. Earlier in the day Veronica resumed broadcasts on 538 metres from the *Nordeney*. After 15 days on the beach the vessel had eventually been towed off with aid of tugs and bulldozers. The damage was not as bad as had originally been estimated. Veronica's Broadcasts publicised the rally and a free pop concert. Planes flew over The Hague, towing banners urging the preservation of the station.

At the meeting it was pointed out that in the 13 years of Veronica's existence, Dutch music had become third in importance after the USA and the UK. It would be a terrible blow, it was claimed, if the station were to be banned since it had achieved such a high degree of popularity with the record buying public.

Reprinted from Script 5  
(June 1973)

## Payola at the BBC

Police armed with 15 arrest warrants started a swoop on London, on May 17, and arrested

nine people. Amongst those arrested was singer Dorothy Squires and West End hostess Janie Jones. The arrests were in connection with allegations that BBC producers and disc jockeys were bribed to broadcast pop records. Other people held included song-writer John Dee, former *Family Favourites* producer Jack Dabbs, record promoter Tony Saxon and Roger Bolton.

## Corruption

The charges included corruption and forging postcards with requests. A report of an alleged payola at the BBC was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions last October by detectives led by Chief Supt. Richard Brooker. A number of reports followed and were studied by Crown lawyers before warrants for arrests were issued at Bow Street.

## News of the World

The investigation by the Police was started after allegations made by the *News of the World* in a series of articles in March 1971 entitled 'Scandal at the BBC'. Two reporters Clive Cooke and Trevor Kempson had posed as representatives of a new record company. They invited BBC deejays and producers to a penthouse flat where they arranged for records to be plugged. However they did not know that they were being recorded. The results of the conversations were printed in the articles. The BBC conducted an internal inquiry into the allegations. It was handled by Brian Neill, QC but his report was never published.

## Sex parties

The *News of the World* handed over reports to the Police which stated that several deejays and producers attended sex parties and received paid holidays abroad.

## New World

Warrants were also issued for the arrest of the pop group New World who at the time were touring Europe and Edward Kassner, the American head of President Records, who was out of the country.

The case is due to be heard June 15, at Bow Street Magistrates Court. It is expected to take several months.

Reprinted from Script 5  
(June 1973)

## Capital Progress

Capital Radio — London's new independent local radio station — hopes to start full broadcasts on October 16. Already the station has moved into its new offices and studios in the Euston Tower office complex. They will be sharing the building with the London HQ of Post Office administration. A number of senior executives have been appointed, including Michael Bukht as programme controller.

Mr Bukht was formerly controller of 'Big J', the Jamaican broadcasting company's station, and with the BBC in their drama and current affairs department. He explained that Capital Radio's programming ideas were becoming clearer. The 24-hours-a-day station's 'trade-mark' will be 'quality pop' —

aimed at the listener who wants something smoother, maybe a little more conservative than the young radio listener.

## Capital 50

There will probably be a 'Capital 50', i.e. records chosen on the basis of their 'quality sound', but also catering for as many musical tastes as possible. The sauce to Capital's main dish will be rock shows, some drama, information and advice programmes, and occasional outside broadcasts.

Mr Bukht said, 'I am seeing a lot of people, but none of the presenters have been appointed yet. Some things I have decided, but I am not going to talk about them yet.' Capital Radio will not be buying ready-made programme material, even the jingles will be produced in their own studio. Mr Bukht asserts that the commercials will not affect his programming, and he hopes that, they will 'enhance the day's programming and be an entertainment in themselves.'

Ron Onions who has been with BBC Television News for 13 years, has moved to the news editor's desk at Capital Radio where he will work closely with Michael Bukht. He said 'There are enormous possibilities in this country. Twenty-four hours a day broadcasting brings opportunities for a very wide range of programmes.'

Reprinted from Script 6  
(August 1973)

## New Services for the Mi Amigo

On July 9 powerful signals were received on 389 metres. On the 13th, test music on 259 metres. On the Sunday two hours of non-stop Beatle music was played until midday when a new radio station was heard for the first time on 259m. Radio Atlantis started broadcasts from the *Mi Amigo* with a power of about 40 kilowatts giving a strong signal into Holland and South East England. Programmes were mainly of pop music with Flemish deejays. The records were mainly British and Holland hits.

## Several Thousand Pounds

The owner of the station, 25-year old Adriaan Van Landschoot, a textile mill owner in Belgium is paying several thousand pounds a week for the use of the *Mi Amigos'* facilities, while his own ship is equipped in Denmark. The address being used by Radio Atlantis for its fan club is Postbus 385, Oostburg, Holland.

Programmes are broadcast daily from 6 am with one hour of non-stop muziek until 7 am when the deejays take over for 12 hours. Broadcasts have been regular except for a couple of transmission breaks when they used a standby transmitter.

Programme Director of the new station is Tony Houston. Other djs are Luc Vancapellen, Peter van Dam, Mike Moorkens who records programmes in a studio in Oostburg.

## Progressive

So far no mention had been made of English broadcasts from the ship until suddenly at 9 pm on Tuesday, July 24 Radio Seagull



## Best of Script News

was born. Daily programmes were broadcast from 9 pm to 5 am the following morning, with a progressive format similar to that used by Radio Geromino several years ago. Advertisements were broadcast for the London Free Information Service - BIT and for crash pads, etc. Now broadcasts are 8 pm - 5 am with djs Andy Archer, Norman Barrington, Barry Norman, Mike the Poet (a crewman) and 'Noakes' selection at 4 am.

Reprinted from Script 6  
(August 1973)

## Dutch Law will close Pirates

On the 28th June 1973, the Dutch Government considered legislation that could mean the closedown of the three Dutch offshore stations Radios Caroline, Veronica and North Sea. The Dutch Second Chamber passed a ratification of the Treaty of Strasbourg. The Treaty outlaws broadcasting from ships anchored outside a country's territory. The bill still has to go through the first chamber of the House. A clear passage through the First Chamber is not expected however. It is likely to be after the Summer recess that the Bill is further debated.

In the Netherlands different societies are eligible for a certain amount of airtime on the three national channels. At present these societies are mainly political, religious or cultural. The offshore stations see their future by forming such societies and also campaigning for the introduction of a fourth national channel.

The bill was passed with a vote of 95 to 34. The Speaker will decide when it becomes law if it passed by the First Chamber. Earlier this year a Parliamentary commission met in April to hold a Public Hearing in order to test people's views. Radio Veronica organised a massive publicity campaign and a free concert.

Reprinted from Script 6  
(August 1973)

## All-news station

London Broadcasting will be the first Commercial station to start operating in the U.K. At 6 am on Monday 8 October a time signal will be followed by LBC's signature tune. There will be no official opening. London Broadcasting plan to launch straight into its normal Monday to Friday schedule. The first programme in the morning will be David Jessel presenting *The Morning Show* - basically news and information. 9 am to 12 noon a show called *Two in the morning* features Paul Callan and Janet Street-Porter talking to people in the suburbs and metropolises.

*Open Line* is a two hour mid-day 'phone-in' show. 2 pm to 4.30 pm. Julian Strickland presents *At Home* - mainly for women. *The Afternoon show* with Clive Roslin, is followed by *Feedback*. This is a two hour programme where the airwaves are thrown open for the listeners.

9 pm to 10 pm the *Main News* - intended to be similar to the old Radio 4 news programme. Finally, 10 pm to 6 am is *Nightline*

presented by various people. The eight hour programme will not feature any music - just phone-ins, international news, discussions, advice and information. Throughout the day, national news will be on the hour, with headlines and local news on the half-hour. Capital Radio will first tune into the life of London with round the clock broadcasting on October 16th with transmissions beginning at 5 am. 'This is the hour when London comes to life in the morning, when a lot of people are already up and about. We want to be there to greet them,' says John Whitney, Capital's Managing Director.

The morning show presented by Dave Symonds will contain information, features, rush-hour travel and time checks. Monty-Modlyn - in a radio car - will be out and about in London talking to people about whatever is topical that morning.

Tommy Vance and Joan Shelton broadcast together from 9-12 midday, with Tommy in the studio and Joan interviewing.

At 12 noon Dave Cash takes over with *Cash Countdown*, a prize competition which will run through the lunch period.

At 4.30pm the station winds up the tempo again for 'Drive-Home' time, until 6pm which marks the change in style for the evening.

Between 6 and 6.30 there is a programme with specific emphasis on the events to come in London that evening and at 6.30 Nicky Horne presents 'Mother Wouldn't Like It', progressive music show, which aims to draw younger audiences.

Reprinted from Script 7  
(October 1973)

## Atlantis buys Boat

The Belgium offshore station, which until recently broadcast from the *Mi Amigo*, home of Radio Caroline, has bought a new ship. The boat is the *MV "Zondagavonod"* formerly used by Radio Condor.

Adriaan van Landschoot, owner of the Atlantis organisation, paid 16,000 Dutch guilders for the boat. Radio Condor had planned to give a voice to 'cultural, humane and idealistic aims.' But it never got off the ground due to financial problems.

Our Dutch correspondent, Lion Keezer reports that Adriaan van Landschoot intends to use the radio transmitters from the old REM-TV Island. These were used for only a few months in 1964 for a Dutch pirate TV and Radio station operating from an artificial island in the North Sea. The Atlantis organisation is not buying them but is hiring the transmitters from a Dutch recording company. Atlantis is likely to broadcast in Flemish during the day, while the recording company runs a Dutch service in the evening. However a British broadcasting organisation has been in contact with both parties expressing an interest in buying airtime on the new station.

Radio Atlantis only intends to use the Condor ship as a temporary measure until a larger ship has been fully equipped. But plans to use the ship have already been thwarted as it recently broke its anchor. It is now in harbour in Germany having a new anchor fitted.

Reprinted from Script 8  
(December 1973)

## More ILR stations

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's process of Allocating independent local radio contracts. At the end of July it announced that after considering two applicants for the Swansea radio franchise it was going to offer it to Swansea Sound Limited.

The station is expected to begin broadcasts in the summer of 1974. It has not yet named the companies who will operate the next stations in Edinburgh and Liverpool, but revealed that it has received four applicants for each station. The Authority is at present interviewing the prospective candidates.

Friday, January 11, 1974 has been set as the closing date for applicants to apply for the contract to operate an Independent Local Radio service for Plymouth and Sheffield (including Rotherham).

Reprinted from Script 8  
(December 1973)

## Independent Radio

Radio Hallam have been offered the contract to operate the Independent Local Radio service for Sheffield and Rotherham area by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Plymouth Sound Ltd have been chosen for the Plymouth area. Other Companies so far allocated licences but not yet broadcasting are as follows: Swansea, Swansea Sound Ltd; Tyneside, Metropolitan Broadcasting Ltd; Edinburgh, Radio Fourth Ltd; Liverpool, Sound of Merseyside Ltd.

At present the IBA is advertising for applicants for Nottingham and Teesside. The closing date for applications is May 8. After that the IBA will be advertising for (in alphabetical order), Bradford, Ipswich, Portsmouth, Reading and Wolverhampton.

Reprinted from Script 9  
(March 1974)

## Dutch Outlaw Pirates

The Dutch Government has passed the law which will close down four radio ships, at present located off the North Sea coast of Holland. But there is a real possibility that the most popular station, Radio Veronica - which has now been broadcasting from the high seas since 1959 - could be allowed to come on land and be granted a licence.

On 22 January 1974, the first Chamber of Parliament (equivalent to the British House of Lords) passed the Act with a majority of 49 against 12 votes. But the decision was not taken until the Minister of Culture, Van Dorn, had agreed to consider the application of Radio Veronica to broadcast on land. The date that the Act will become law will not be announced until after Veronica's application has been considered.

The Act, which is a ratification of the Treaty of Strasbourg,

prohibits Dutch people from working for a pirate station, supplying or helping it or buying advertising time. It is very similar to the British Marine (Offences) Broadcasting Act which in 1967 closed down six offshore stations. Holland was the last of the European countries on the Atlantic and the North Sea coasts to sign the pact.

The Government is now investigating the possibility of Veronica broadcasting on land. It could either be given a channel of its own - which seems unlikely for technical reasons. Or it would be given airtime on one of the national channels. Holland's three radio channels are at present filled by programmes from NOS (National broadcasting Foundation) and seven other broadcasting organisations - religious and political societies. Each society is allocated a certain number of hours per week depending on the number of members in the society.

Just over a year ago, Radio Veronica formed its own society, Veronica Omroep Stichting (VOS). VOS has 280,000 members which should entitle it to a c-class licence like VPRO - the 'Social Criticism Society'. That would give it 4 hours a week on TV and 10 hours a week on radio.

The date that the law will come into force and when Veronica will start broadcasting from land, if it is granted a licence, is likely to be October 1 1974. The first broadcast from Veronica was fifteen years ago, on October 15 1959.

The other radio ships will probably have to be closedown. The Dutch service of Radio North Sea will probably be closedown first, as it will not be able to obtain advertising. The Swiss owners of the ship are considering moving it to the Italian coast, but have made no firm decision yet.

The two other ships, Caroline and Atlantis will probably be continuing, obtaining supplies from Spain or by plane from an inland country. But they will not last long - probably only a few weeks.

The first pirate radio ship to broadcast from the North Sea was a Swedish station in 1954. This year, the 20th anniversary of offshore radio could be the last of an era.

Reprinted from Script 9  
(March 1974)

## Caroline djs to join RNI

Two well-known deejays have left Radio Northsea to join rival station Radio Caroline. Robb Eden started working for Radio Caroline during May, and Graham Gill at the beginning of June. Graham Gill and Andy Archer will act as joint programme controllers for a new format Radio Caroline. However, Robb Eden told a reporter from *Script* 'The music policy will stay the same and the station will still concentrate on album tracks.'

The reason why the two jocks left RNI seems to be because of growing despondency over the future of the station. Robb Eden not only changes jobs as a deejay. In London he was the 'London Representative' of the Radio Northsea. Now he will be doing the same job but for the Caroline organisation. He said 'There was no reaction from the people who mattered in Britain to RNI,



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because of the poor signal in London. The Swiss owners of the station don't seem interested in improving it.

Radio Caroline are claiming that they are attracting two per cent of the total radio audience in Britain. They base their figures on a recent survey.

Reprinted from *Script* 10  
(June 1974)

## Government Enquiry

One of the first moves of the Labour Government after the recent General Election was to set up an enquiry into Broadcasting under Lord Annan. This was set up under the Labour Government of 1970 but was cancelled when the Conservatives

came to power. The BBC Charter and the Independent Broadcasting Authority's franchise have both been extended to 1979. They were due to expire in 1976.

So far the Government has made no statement with regard to the future of the commercial stations. Whilst in opposition the Labour Party was strongly opposed to commercial radio. Already there are five stations operating with a further six stations for which contractors have been appointed. And at present the IBA is considering applications for two more stations, Nottingham and Teesside.

### Commercial radio

Although it is unlikely that any action will be taken against the stations that have already been allocated, it is possible the expansion of the IBA network could be halted. Many people in the radio business are expecting an order from the Government to the IBA soon, which will ask them to stop advertising for applicants for the next stations. The next areas are expected to be Bradford, Ipswich, Portsmouth, Reading and Wolverhampton. The IBA had hoped they would all be operating before summer 1976.

Reprinted from *Script* 10  
(June 1974)

## Government may order cutback in Commercial radioplans

The Government is expected to order the Independent Broadcasting Authority to cut back the development of local commercial radio.

IBA officials are said to be anxiously waiting for news of the Labour Government's plans for commercial radio from Home Secretary Roy Jenkins, who has overall responsibility for broadcasting.

Meanwhile, no further applications for station contracts are being invited — and the IBA openly admits it has no idea when they will.

'We are aware that the Home Office are investigating the future of independent local radio', said an IBA spokesman. 'We are expecting some statement fairly soon.'

So far, the IBA has awarded contracts to 11 station operators since the beginning of 1973.

The Labour Party has never supported commercial radio. It was only after the Tories won the 1970 election that the commercial radio lobby finally won its cause after years of campaigning.

Although the Government's plans to halt commercial radio are still being finalised, there is strong speculation that the IBA will be told not to offer any further contracts at least until the beginning of 1976. There would be just one exemption: Belfast.

This would be an obvious political move. It was hoped that Belfast would be among the first dozen stations on the air, but plans had to be put back because of technical problems.

Other sources believe that the IBA will be allowed to offer contracts for the next five stations to complete the first published timetable. After this, no more franchises will be allowed until after the newly appointed Annan Committee of inquiry into broadcasting has made its report. This could take four or five years.

The five stations the IBA hoped to offer are: Bradford, Ipswich, Portsmouth, Reading and Wolverhampton. But officials have no definite plans when any of them will be advertised — or which will be next. Some IBA officials are optimistically hoping that they will at least be allowed to get 20 stations operating to match the BBC's 20 local radio stations.

Reprinted from *Script* 11  
(August 1974)

## Dutch popships told to close on August 31st

As *Script* Magazine went to Press, it was disclosed by the Dutch Government that the law to close down the offshore stations will come into effect on 31st August. In a statement made on Dutch television the Minister for Radio, Henri van Doorn said Radio Northsea and Radio Veronica must close at the end of the month. However, he did not mention the other two offshore stations, Radio Caroline and Radio Atlantis.

The Act — *Het Verdrag van Strooburg* — is similar to the British Marine etc. Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967 which prevented the British pop ships from continuing after August 14th, 1967. The Dutch law makes it illegal for any Dutch citizen to work for an offshore station or supply it with goods or advertise on it. It was passed by the Dutch Government several months ago, but it was not until the middle of August that the Minister announced the date on which the law was to come into force.

Reprinted from *Script* 12  
(September 1974)

## Farewell to the Pirates

An era of European broadcasting history has come to an end. On August 31, 1974, at midnight, the Dutch Broadcasting Act — *Het Verdrag van Strooburg* — became law. The effect was to close down

the three offshore radio stations broadcasting from International Waters, Radio Northsea, Radio Veronica and Radio Atlantis each broadcast a final hour just before the act became law.

Radio Veronica, the most popular of the stations in Holland, has been broadcasting programmes in Dutch, from the high seas, for nearly fifteen years. An attempt had been made by the owners of the station to get a licence to broadcast on land. But this was rejected by the Minister for Cultural Affairs, Henri van Doorn. Another attempt to obtain airtime on the national Hilversum network also failed. So, the owners of the station decided to cease broadcasts at the end of August, to avoid breaking the law.

Veronica's final hour was to broadcast between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 31st. It was extremely emotional. The programme, recorded at the station's studios in Hilversum consisted of messages from the deejays and all the records ever recorded about Radio Veronica. It ended with a message from the owner Bul Verwey, followed by the Dutch national anthem.

The radio ship *Nordeney*, has not been brought into harbour yet. The Veronica organisation are awaiting the decision of the Appeal Court over its application for airtime. Normally, to qualify for airtime, an organisation or society has to have a certain number of members, who pay an annual subscription. Radio Veronica has 300,000 members and should easily qualify. *Veronica Omroep Stichting* — (the name of the Veronica society) have therefore applied to the Courts for a judgement against the Minister's decision. In the meantime the radio ship is to stay in International Waters, and off the air.

Radio Northsea's Dutch service also made an application to broadcast on land, but it too, was rejected. The Dutch service is run by a music publishing company called Basart. Basart, with its offices and studios just outside the city of Hilversum, could be compared with the E.M.I. organisation in this country. It hired airtime on the Mebo II transmitters, from the Swiss owners, Meister and Bollier.

The International service of Radio Northsea closed down at midnight on the Friday. The English deejays, Roger Kent, Robin Banks, Brian McKenzie and 'Daffy' Don Allen presented a final hour in which they recalled part of Northsea's turbulent history. At midnight, the Dutch service came on and broadcast continuously through Saturday. The Dutch deejays presented their final hour, which began at 7 p.m. At a few minutes past eight, the transmitters were turned off.

When the English and Dutch announcers, came off the *Mebo II*, the following day, there were several thousand fans waiting to greet them at Scheveningen harbour.

The other offshore station to close on Saturday, August 31st, was Radio Atlantis. Atlantis has only been broadcasting from the *MV Jeannine* for nine months. When the news was announced that the pirates would have to close down at the end of the month, the immediate reaction of owner Adriaan van Landschoot was to close the daytime Flemish/Dutch broadcasts. Instead, Radio Atlantis' International Service transmitted programmes around the clock in English. The object of this move was partly to see if an international service could raise enough money to keep Radio Atlantis on the air. But, unfortunately it didn't, so the station had to cease broadcasts.

Radio Atlantis ended trans-

missions at 7 p.m. on the Saturday, after a final hour in which deejays and owner van Landschoot bid their farewells. At 4.30 a.m. the following morning two supply tenders came out to tow the *MV Jeannine* into harbour. When Radio Atlantis arrived at the harbour in Vlissingen close to the border with Belgium, there were thousands of listeners waiting. The deejays were interviewed by the press and both Dutch and Belgium television channels.

The future of the radio ship *Jeannine* is still undecided. It is up for sale, but as the owners want to dispose of the boat as soon as possible, it seems most likely that it will be sold as scrap. All the small items of equipment and records have been taken off the ship, whilst the larger items have been locked up.

Reprinted from *Script* 13  
(October 1974)

## Caroline remains defiant

On Thursday, 29th August at 4 p.m. Radio Caroline hauled up its anchor and sailed from its position just outside territorial waters near Scheveningen. Two tugs accompanied the *MV Mi Amigo* as she sailed across the North Sea. One tug was used to support a new anchor and chain that had just been obtained. By the middle of the afternoon of the afternoon of the following day Radio Caroline had reached its new position off the Essex coast.

The 470-ton *Mi Amigo* is at present anchored outside the Thames Estuary, about twenty miles north of Margate, eighteen miles west of Clacton-on-Sea. The ship is a long way out. It is nearly fifteen miles further out to sea from the position it occupied off Frinton, Essex during the 1960s.

Throughout its journey, Radio *Mi Amigo* and Radio Caroline continued broadcasting programmes. On Saturday, August 31, at midnight, as the Dutch Broadcasting Act became law, deejay Tony Allan played the Caroline theme, followed by 'All You Need Is Love' by the Beatles. The same record was played at midnight, August 14th, 1967 on Radio Caroline when the British equivalent to the Dutch law — *The Marine, etc., Broadcasting (Offences) Act, 1967* — came into effect.

Radio Caroline now intends to continue broadcasting from its present position. During the day recorded programmes of Radio *Mi Amigo* are transmitted. These programmes in Flemish are aimed at Holland and Belgium. In the evening Radio Caroline's International Service broadcasts in English.

There are several reasons why Radio Caroline Radio *Mi Amigo* has been able to continue whereas the other three offshore stations have been forced off the air by the new Dutch legislation. Firstly, Radio Caroline derives its income from the Flemish Radio *Mi Amigo*. Caroline, itself carries no advertising.

Radio *Mi Amigo* is owned by a Belgium businessman Sylvain Tack. He hires air-time from the Caroline organisation. Tack is a millionaire and his businesses include several Suzie Waffle sweet factories and a music publishers called Gnoome. Radio *Mi Amigo* gets its income from record plugs and Belgian advertising.



## Best of Script News

Belgium has already passed a law against pirate radio, but Tack has found a loophole in the legislation. All commercials on the station are preceded by a jingle 'Mi Amigo Information'. The advertisement is then read from *Joepic* magazine or a newspaper. In Belgium law it is then no longer an advertisement, but is a piece of information, which is not illegal.

Owner of the *MV Mi Amigo*, Irishman Ronan O'Rahilly is not saying where he is getting supplies from, for the ship. Spain is the only coastal country from which a tender could service Radio Caroline, without breaking the law. It seems likely that a large tender will come out from a Spanish port at least once a month with diesel fuel and bulk supplies. For smaller items and deejay changes a small fishing vessel may leave from either Holland or the English coast, under the cover of darkness. At its present position the ship can not be seen from the coast and a small vessel might not show up on a radar.

The Home Office issued a statement shortly after Radio Caroline arrived off the British coast, saying that they were keeping an eye on the situation.

Reprinted from Script 13  
(October 1974)

## 208 Looks back

Radio Luxembourg celebrates its 40th Anniversary this week (October 27th to November 2nd) and to mark the occasion several special programmes are being presented.

Kid Jensen presents a special edition of his programme called *Dimensions 1969 - 1974* on the Sunday. The following day sees *The Cliff Richard Story* (9 p.m.) and *In Sound 34* (1 a.m.). On Tuesday at 1 a.m. there is a special programme *Trends in Music*. *Great American Chart Toppers* are featured on the Wednesday at 9.30 p.m. On Thursday October 31, *This Is How It All Began - 40 Years Of Radio Luxembourg* is a 2½ hour documentary charting the station's history. It starts at 9.30 p.m. and includes many historic recordings and features wartime Nazi propaganda broadcasts of Lord Haw-Haw. Tony Prince presents *Roll Past* on Friday at 11 p.m. The weekend with *The Superstars* at 8 p.m. and a 40th Birthday Party, through to midnight.

Reprinted from Script 14  
(November 1974).

## Radio Nova delayed

The former home of Radio North Sea International; the 570-ton *Mebo II* has now completed its refitting at a harbour in Slikkerveer, near Rotterdam, Holland. But just as the ship was about to leave harbour to sail to its new position off the Italian coast, the authorities boarded the ship and prevented it from sailing.

Disc Jockey, Don Allen explained, "This is only a hold-up of a couple of weeks." The police were very embarrassed by the decision of the Attorney-General. RNI must now show that it has written permission from a country to broadcast from its coast".

According to Don Allen, the Swiss Owners, Meister and Bollier, have such permission from

an African and a South American country. After the evidence has been produced before the Dutch court the *Mebo II* will be allowed to sail.

He went on to say, "By the time your readers read this news item Radio Nova International will be on the air. Test transmissions will begin as soon as the ship is in International Waters, but the official start of programmes will be on November 1st."

The new anchorage for the *Mebo II* is a position on the High Seas, off Savona near San Remo on the Italian Riviera. The power output of Radio Nova International will be 100 kw on 190 metres medium wave. There will be an Italian Service during the day and in the evenings an English International Service.

"I have been assured," said Don Allen, "by the owners, Mr Meister and Mr Bollier that our International Service should be received in all parts of Britain on 244 metres from 8 p.m. till 3 a.m. nightly."

Reprinted from Script 14  
(November 1974)

## Capital Trouble

Capital Radio is losing money! That was the shock announcement made by John Witney, managing director of Capital Radio, recently. At a special meeting of the staff in November he said that the company was losing money and was close to bankruptcy. He went on to say that it would be necessary to cut the number of staff employed and so twenty eight employees would be made redundant.

The immediate reaction from the two unions involved - the National Union of Journalists and the engineers' union ACTT - was to pass a vote of no confidence in the station management and programme controller.

### News room to close

The management had put forward a proposal to close the news room meaning that 14 journalists would lose their jobs. Instead of producing its own news Capital will relay the first two minutes of Independent Radio News which is also broadcast on LBC. Capital Radio had already obtained permission for the move from the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

As another move to reduce costs Capital's management decided to drop the *Night Flight* programme which runs from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. Instead an engineer was to play continuous 'copyright-free' music, but the ACTT would not allow it. They instructed their engineers to put out a continuous tone for the four hour period if a presenter was not made available for the programme. After four days of Capital closing down at 1 a.m., the management gave in and the programme was restored.

In spite of the vote of no confidence from the staff the management are still intent on closing the newsroom and reducing the engineering staff from fourteen engineers to only six. The other redundancies will be administrative posts.

Because of the financial difficulties of the station, Capital Radio has applied to the I.B.A. for a reduction of its transmitter rental. When the contract was awarded to Capital the rental for the second year was set at 350,000 but a cost of living allowance has meant that the IBA has had to increase it. The figure Capital must now pay is 380,000.

Reprinted from Script 15  
(December 1974).

## More ILR stations on the way

The IBA has now finished its schedule for advertising for applicants for the contracts to operate Independent Local Radio services in the areas recently authorised by the Home Secretary. The closing date for the contracts for Bradford and Portsmouth was during November. All applications for Wolverhampton and Ipswich must be in by December 17 and Belfast by January 7.

The IBA has also announced the wavelengths and channels that the stations will operate on:

Bradford area 285m MW (1277 kHz) and 96.0 VHF.  
Portsmouth area 257 m MW (1169 kHz) and 95.0 VHF.  
Wolverhampton area 303 m MW (989 kHz) and 97.2 VHF.  
Ipswich area 257 m MW (1169 kHz) and 97.1 VHF.  
Belfast area 293 m MW (1025 kHz) and 96.0 VHF.

Reprinted from Script 15  
(December 1974)

## RNI Legal Battle

The *Mebo II*, home of the new offshore station Radio Nova International is still in Rotterdam as the Dutch authorities are holding the boat. Just over a month ago the Dutch harbour authorities and the police boarded the boat to prevent it from sailing. The ship had just completed a re-fitting and had been painted. The owners of the ship, Swiss businessmen Meister and Bollier must now satisfy the Dutch courts that they are an authorised broadcast station. The legal arguments were expected to take only a short time as the boat's owners have written permission from two countries - one African and one South American - to broadcast. But legal arguments have delayed the matter and the case has been adjourned several times.

Shortly before the ship was seized, three new studios were put on to the former home of Radio Northsea International. RNI obtained the equipment from the Bussom studios used by the Dutch service of Radio Northsea. The studio equipment was transported complete to the ship. What was formally the large studio and record library has been divided up into three smaller studios. There are now five operational studios on the ship. The inside of the *Mebo II* has been renovated and adapted for the sub-tropical climate of the Mediterranean. The mast was completely dismantled and re-erected in one day. And the transmitters, generators and the engines were all serviced. On the side of the ship the words Radio Northsea International were painted over. The ship is still kaleidoscopically painted but with only the words RNI Radio.

When the authorities boarded the ship, government seals were put on all the transmitters and telecommunications equipment. When the ship is allowed to sail to its new position off San Remo, on the Italian coast, it will broadcast using three transmitters: medium wave, short wave and on VHF-FM. The deejay line up for the new station which will broadcast in Italian during the day and in English at night is: Graham

Gill, Robin Banks, Roger Kent, Bob Noakes and Brian Anderson.

Reprinted from Script 15  
(December 1974)

## Radio Caroline The Home Office Intervenes

Radio Caroline, the offshore radio station anchored off the Essex coast, recently became the subject of Home Office activity.

It is apparent, by their movements, that they are not directly trying to stop Caroline's broadcasts, but are going about it in a round about way. Several Caroline personnel have been harassed and two people have lost their jobs, simply by the intervention of the Home Office.

For obvious reasons, the security around Caroline, particularly the tendering, is tight. But on every occasion there has been a tender, the Home Office has had what can only be described as a very expensive operation in progress.

Indeed, one wonders just how this classified information can be obtained by the government. Talks of tapping telephone lines and surveillance of staff are no longer a possibility.

Script now takes a week by week look at exactly what has been happening.

October 29th. Caroline personnel including two deejays, left Burnham-on-Crouch in Essex for the *Mi Amigo*. When they approached the boat, it was noticed that a fishing boat was moored some 500 yards away. On realising that the boat was the tender, the 'fishing boat' came alongside the *Mi Amigo* and took photographs.

When the tender sailed within the 3-mile limit, it was accompanied by a Police launch which escorted the boat back to land, where they were searched by Police and Customs officials.

The names and addresses of all personnel were taken and a statement read out to the effect that it was illegal to supply a radio station outside territorial limits and that they were liable to prosecution.

November 26th. The tender on this occasion left from Brightlingsea and when it arrived alongside the *Mi Amigo*, a helicopter was flying over taking pictures. The tender returned to Brightlingsea accompanied, and again staff were cautioned.

In the evening, the person who ran the ship-to-shore radio link, returned home to find Police and Home Office officials waiting for him. They had been monitoring the link for many weeks and had transcripts of everything that had been said. All the equipment was confiscated along with the assurance of prosecution under the Wireless Telegraphy Act. Unfortunately for this person, he had a responsible job with an electronics company.

After his employers were visited by the Home Office, he lost his job for no other reason than the fact that he had run the ship-to-shore link.

November 27th. An engineer at an Independent local radio station was suspended then dismissed. The Home Office had contacted them giving details of his activities with Caroline. Naturally, the IBA became equally anxious to remove this person and the information placed before the



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station's management ranged from involvement with Radio Kaleidoscope to a prosecution in 1968 for playing music on the amateurs bands.

**December 2nd.** *Script* telephoned the ILR station about the sacking of the engineer, which revealed the following: The Press Officer didn't even know that anyone had been sacked, secondly when asked, the Personnel Officer declined to say anything because it was 'political'. A call to the General Manager revealed 'no comment'.

**December 4th.** *Script* was running some editorial matter in conjunction with this ILR station, but was telephoned to say that on no account was the station to have any connection with *Script* because it was backing Radio Caroline. They also had on good authority that 'the company was to be taken care of'. It was also revealed that the engineer had resigned.

**December 5th.** The General Manager of Tantra Designs in Beckenham, Mr. Peter Douglas, received a telephone call from a Mr. W.F. Lancefield of the Radio Regulatory Department of the Home Office who asked whether he realised that it was illegal to advertise on Radio Caroline. He replied that he didn't know it was illegal and that he wasn't really advertising because he was making some stickers for Loving Awareness. He thought that the station was promoting his goods in return.

A letter was received a few days later by Peter Douglas stating that unless he stopped advertising, he would be liable to prosecution.

**December 19th.** A director of *Script* Publications went to see the Managing Director of the ILR station concerning the rumour that *Script* was backing Radio Caroline. Apparently he had been told that two thirds of *Script* Publications' advertising revenue was going towards the running of the 'pirate' station. Evidence was given that the magazine was independently run, and normal relations recommenced with the station.

On this particular occasion, another statement was issued about the former engineer, who according to the Managing Director was dismissed.

In the light of what has been happening in the last few months, one can't help wondering as to what exactly is going on. The case is still very much open. In fact the position of the two people who lost their jobs is still in the air. But apart from the harassment, the amount of money being spent on the whole operation must not be overlooked. Running such operations is not cheap, in fact one Caroline deejay told *Script* 'It would be a far more sensible idea if the money was spent trying to catch the IRA, not something that is trying to bring Love to people'. For the moment, the only thing our listeners can do is to write to their MPs and urge the government to stop this'.

*Reprinted from Script 16 (January 1975)*

## Bradford Community Radio wins contract

Bradford community Radio has been awarded the Independent Local Radio contract for Bradford. The company which was formed several years ago is nearly nine

tenths owned by local businessmen. The company is this month signing a lease for a building in the centre of Bradford, on one of the busiest squares. It will be the site of the station's offices and studios.

Bradford Community Radio will probably be known as Radio Bradford when the station actually gets on the air. It will be advertising for senior staff in the next few months. As a programme controller has not been appointed yet it is too early to say what the station will sound like on the air, except that all programmes will be locally orientated.

Stephen Whitehead, who is heading the group sees the most difficult problems for B.C.R. as launching the station within the budget; and trouble being caused by delays in equipment deliveries. He hopes that Radio Bradford (or whatever it is to be called) will be on the air by the Autumn.

*Reprinted from Script 17 (February 1975)*

## Legal battle delays radio ship

The Radio Ship, Mebo 2, is still at anchor in Slikkerveer, near Rotterdam, Holland. Just before Christmas the owners of the ship Meister and Bollier appeared in the Dutch court. Under a 1907 Dutch Act, the Court ordered that all the transmitting equipment was to be handed over to the PTT — the Dutch Posts and Telephone Board — and that Radio Nova International's owners, Mebo of Zurich, be awarded 350,000 guilders (£58,000) compensation. The transmitters were in fact worth a million guilders (£170,000). The PTT also interpreted the court ruling as meaning all the electronic equipment. That would include the studios and electrical measuring apparatus. Mebo are now refusing to allow anything to be removed from the ship until clarification has been made over what can and cannot be taken from the radio station. At the same time it is appealing against the court's ruling that anything should be confiscated.

Swiss Owner Edwin Meister is confident that he will be able to get the radio ship back to sea legally. If necessary he will take the case to a High Court of Appeal that sits only once every two years. Meister has plans to sail the ship around Europe to a position off the coast of Italy where it will broadcast as Radio Nova International. It will broadcast during the day in Italian, and at night in international service in English.

*Reprinted from Script 17 (February 1975)*

## Caroline support growing

Radio Caroline appears to be continually increasing its audience figures. Latest opinion poll findings show a rise on last October's figures. It is now estimated by a leading research firm that 3.6 million listeners tune into Radio Caroline at some time in a week!

There are also signs that Caroline's album format is very successful. There have been several reports from small record companies whose records have been played extensively on Caroline, but not on any other station. They are reluctant to allow their names to be printed as they fear the Home Office might think they have paid Radio Caroline to play those albums. But they say there has definitely been an increase in sales of certain records.

In the 1960s Radio Caroline was a pioneer of the singles Top 50 chart and greatly influenced the pop single market. Now it appears it is attempting to revolutionise the album market, and judging by comments from certain functions of the album producing industry they are being very successful.

*Reprinted from Script 17 (February 1975)*

## Portsmouth franchise announced

The three cornered fight for the Portsmouth franchise has been won by Sound Broadcasting (Portsmouth) Ltd. The IBA however have only offered the contract with the condition that one of the rival groups Portsmouth Broadcasting Ltd., be given an opportunity to take a shareholding in Sound Broadcasting (Portsmouth).

One of the principal shareholders of SBP is a newspaper group Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers Ltd. They are also shareholders in the ILR company Sound Broadcasting (Teesside) Ltd., — which is to be known as Radio Tees.

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers have been interested in commercial radio for a long time. In the 1960s they registered several commercial radio companies with the hope of operating a station for the south coast. When the Sound Broadcasting Act 1972 proposed independent local radio and indicated that there would be a station in Portsmouth, they formed a company to apply for the licence.

They were able to obtain some very influential support from local dignitaries. SBP board of directors includes former Lord Mayor of Portsmouth District Council, The Chairman of Hampshire Education Committee, Chairman of the board of Governors of Portsmouth Polytechnic and two directors of Portsmouth F.C. Familiar names on the board are Adrian Bell, journalist, author and publicist and founder director of LBC, and Peter Duncan, author, journalist, broadcaster and ILR consultant who has forty years of broadcasting experience.

It was Peter Duncan who advised SBP in their application. He has written many articles on radio and TV and has published six books. He once worked for the BBC.

In 1969 he organised a commercial radio project at the Ideal Home Exhibition. Thousands of visitors to the 1969 show were able to see and hear Radio Ideal Home in action. It was a prototype of the commercial radio stations that were to be introduced four years later.

SBP will now be faced with the unusual problems of finding staff and premises for the studios before they can go on the air. They hope to be fully operational by the autumn. One problem they have is a name for the station.

Peter Duncan of SBP, told

*Script* that it will definitely not be called Sound Broadcasting (Portsmouth) Ltd. on the air. One name that is being considered is Radio Victory. However, he welcomed suggestions for the name.

*Reprinted from Script 18 (March 1975)*

## Record company fined

Jumbo Records, producers of the double album 'Ten Years of Offshore' radio were recently summonsed concerning the illegal use of 12 seconds of the record 'Caroline' by the Fortunes in an aircheck of the station Radio Caroline on the LP. The piece of music which was used as a backing for a deejay's voice cost the company £500, in a case which was finally settled out of court.

The British Phonographic Industry which looks after the interest of record companies such as Decca Records in this instance have not only investigated this particular case in a devious way but also have been looking into Ra-Gem Enterprises and Peter Lenton's Import Service.

A director of BPI, William Hood of Paine's Close, Pinner, Middx has written off for goods from various companies under false names such as Dave Butler, Dave Williams etc., either using his own address or one in the Commyns, Bushey Heath in Hertfordshire.

A spokesman for Jumbo Records told *Script*, 'I had no idea that 12 seconds of a record that was used as backing music, which was at any rate, an off the air recording, would be liable for a copyright fee. At any rate all the records had been sold before the company was summonsed.'

In the case of Ra-Gem Enterprises; their record was pressed by Deroy studios who assured them that they had paid all copyright. Edwin Borg, one of the people who run Ra-Gem as a part-time hobby said 'We only had a couple of hundred LPs made anyway, we sold them over three months ago.'

It is an interesting fact that Jumbo records offered to pay the copyright of the 'Caroline' record and asked permission to use it after the illegality was pointed out. The request was refused. Instead of prosecuting very small companies who are obviously ignorant of the law, it might be well worth seeing that people of this nature are well conversed with the law.

*Reprinted from Script 18 (March 1975)*

## Veronica no plans

Rumours that the Dutch pirate station Radio Veronica is about to return to the air, were recently denied by deejay Rob Out. Radio Veronica was forced to cease broadcasts last August when the Dutch Government passed legislation outlawing offshore radio stations.

'It would be wonderful if Radio Veronica came back on the air but I know nothing of it', said Rob Out. 'Because Radio Mi Amigo is still transmitting the



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rumours become stronger that Veronica will come on the air again from the old ship!

The rumours state that Radio Veronica would come on the air again, but based in Spain, Haag (a former Veronica deejay) working on Mi Amigo. Then you are ready to jump in your car and go and do the same. But Sylvain Tack (owner of Radio Mi Amigo) has not approached us.

In the Veronica building in the Old Enghweg in Hilversum, where Radio Mi Amigo is on full blast, and where the name of Sylvain Programmes would be recorded there and taken by tender to the boat which remains at its present position, four miles off Scheveningen near the Hague. If that was the case the station could expect some sort of co-operation from Radio Mi Amigo.

Rob Out of the VOO (Veronica Broadcasting Organisation) explained, 'We are busy here preparing programmes which presently we will broadcast legally. I don't deny that we feel a tingling in the blood when we hear Stan

Tack is heard more than once, Rob Out confirmed that a contract had been made with Tack when the latter was going to broadcast the Veronica Top 40 on his Radio Mi Amigo, but it came to nothing.

The Radio Veronica ship *The Nordey* is still anchored in international waters. Once a week the transmitters are tested.

'There will soon come a fourth radio channel in Holland with classical music', said Rob, 'but still no word has been given to us. Every day we get telephone calls and letters from people who wonder when we start broadcasting again. But we have no special relation with Tack and at the moment there is no talk of a plan to bring Radio Veronica back on the air'.

*Reprinted from Script 19 (April 1975)*

## Summonsed

Peter Jackson, an electronics engineer, has been summonsed under the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act to appear before the magistrates at Clacton Magistrates Court at 10 am on April 7th, 1975. It is alleged that he used a radio transmitter without a licence as part of a ship-to-shore link with the offshore station Radio Caroline. He denies the charge.

He has also been informed that he will be prosecuted under the Marine (Offences) Broadcasting Act 1967, along with the owner of a supply tender from Brightling-on-Sea, Essex, and a disc jockey called Dave Owen. Home office investigators alleged that they were all helping and aiding a pirate radio station.

Home Office investigators also recently questioned a well known free radio supporter from Benfleet, Essex, about Radio Caroline.

*Reprinted from Script 19 (April 1975)*

## Final Contracts Awarded

The final three contracts for Independent Local Radio have now been awarded by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The three new radio Companies are Community Radio Services Ltd for Belfast.

In the case of the Reading ILR contract, Radio Kennet has been awarded it, with the recommendation by the IBA that two other groups, Radio Thameside and Radio Thames Valley be offered an opportunity to participate in Radio Kennet.

The IBA has now awarded contracts to nineteen companies. Altogether 64 companies have applied to the IBA since the first contracts were advertised on October 4th, 1972.

*Reprinted from Script 19 (April 1975)*

